

APR 1 1953

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP

FOIAb3b

Certificate Withheld

WASHINGTON POST

APR 1 1953

CIA Officer Is Found Dead In Home, Empty Vial Nearby

An important administrative officer in the hush-hush Central Intelligence Agency was found dead in his Georgetown home yesterday, with an empty vial beside his body.

Police said the circumstances and a page-long letter to a friend pointed to suicide.

The body of James S. Kronthal, 40, of 1662 32d st. nw., was found about 11 a.m. by two friends from CIA.

Police said the maid, Mrs. Lavinia Thomas, of 2813 N st. nw., arrived as usual at 8:30 a.m. at the attractive, white brick home where Kronthal lived alone. She found a brief note from Kronthal, asking her not to disturb him because he wanted to sleep late. She went about her work.

When Kronthal failed to report to his office, CIA telephoned the house and asked that he be aroused. Police said Mrs. Thomas

called out and got no answer, but hesitated to disturb her employer because of the note.

According to police, Gould Cas-sal, of 3445 38th st. nw., and McGregor Gray, of 4501 Walsh st., Chevy Chase, came to investigate. Police said they found Kronthal's body, full-clothed except for a coat, on a day bed in his second-floor bedroom. An empty vial was on the floor.

Homicide Lieut. Lawrence Hartnett said investigators found a hand-written letter to a male friend indicating Kronthal was "mentally upset because of pressure connected with work."

An autopsy indicated Kronthal died between 10 p. m. and midnight Monday. Actual cause had not been determined last night.

Dr. A. Magruder MacDonald, District coroner, withheld a death certificate pending chemical analysis.

CPYRGHT

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00001R000300390043-6